

In the Claims:

Please cancel Claims 1-5 without prejudice or disclaimer and add the following new claims:

--6. (New) A method for the diagnosis of a pathological condition in a human subject characterized by the endogenous production of a neurotrophin capable of binding a human trkB receptor, comprising

(a) contacting a biological sample obtained from said human subject with a detectably labeled human trkB receptor, and

(b) detecting the presence of said neurotrophic factor by monitoring the binding of said trkB receptor to said neurotrophic factor,

wherein said subject is diagnosed with said pathological condition if said neurotrophic factor is present.

7. (New) The method of claim 20 wherein said pathological condition is a malignancy.

8. (New) The method of claim 21 wherein the pathological condition is a tumor overexpressing said neurotrophin.

9. (New) The method of claim 20 wherein said biological sample is from the pancreas, and the disorder is a pancreatic disorder.

10. (New) The method of claim 20 wherein said pathological condition is aberrant sprouting in epilepsy.

11. (New) The method of claim 20 wherein said pathological condition is a psychiatric disorder.

12. (New) The method of claim 20 wherein said neurotrophic factor is selected from the group consisting of BDNF, NT-3, NT-4 and NT-4/5.